

from ever being considered by the United States Senate is wrong and unfair and beneath us. Who is it that is afraid to vote on these nominations? Who is it that must hide their to these nominees? After almost 4 years with respect to Judge Paez and almost 2 years with respect to Marsha Berzon, it is time for the Senate to vote up-or-down on these nominations.

The Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court wrote in January last year:

Some current nominees have been waiting a considerable time for a Senate Judiciary Committee vote or a final floor vote. \* \* \* The Senate is surely under no obligation to confirm any particular nominee, but after the necessary time for inquiry it should vote him up or vote him down.

At the time the Chief Justice issued this challenge, Judge Paez' nomination had already been pending for 24 months. The Senate received the Berzon nomination within days of the Chief Justice's report. That was almost 2 years ago and still the Senate stalls and refuses to vote. Let us follow the advice of the Chief Justice. Let the Republican leadership schedule fair up or down votes on the nominations of Judge Paez and Marsha Berzon so that the Senate can finally act on them. Let us be fair to all.

The debate on judicial nominations over the last couple of weeks has focused the Senate and the public on the unconscionable treatment by the Senate majority of selected nominees. The most prominent current examples of that treatment are Judge Paez and Marsha Berzon. With respect to these nominations, the Senate is refusing to do its constitutional duty and vote. I challenged the Senate last Friday, in the aftermath of the rejection of the nomination of Justice Ronnie White by the Republican caucus, to vote on the nominations of Judge Paez, Marshal Berzon, Judge Julio Fuentes, Judge Ann Williams, Judge James Wynn, Kathleen McGee Lewis and Enrique Moreno.

Nominees deserve to be treated with dignity and dispatch—not delayed for 2 and 3 and 4 years. I continue to urge the Republican Senate leadership to proceed to vote on the nominations of Judge Richard Paez and Marsha Berzon. There was never a justification for the Republican majority to deny these judicial nominees a fair up or down vote. There is no excuse for their continuing failure to do so.

I know the Senate has done the right thing and confirmed Judge Florence-Marie Cooper to the Central District of California and that she will be an outstanding judge. I will continue my efforts to bring to a vote the nominations of Judge Richard Paez and Marsha Berzon.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

#### RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHO PARTICIPATED IN KOSOVO AND THE BALKANS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 224 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 224) expressing the sense of the Senate to designate November 11, 1999, as a special day for recognizing the members of the Armed Forces and the civilian employees of the United States who participated in the recent conflict in Kosovo and the Balkans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I am reminded of incredibly sacred places and moments in our history when I rise to talk about recognition of our veterans—past and present—on Veteran's Day—recognizing all our veteran's from all our wars. Places like Arlington National Cemetery, Andersonville, Georgia, the beaches of Normandy, Pearl Harbor, the Chosin Reservoir, Keshan, the deserts of Kuwait, and now the skies over Kosovo, should be indelibly etched in all our thoughts.

It is often said "Poor is the nation which has no heroes, but poorer still is the nation which has them but forgets." We will gather all over this great nation on Thursday, November 11, 1999 to remember for the last time this century our veterans and to restate our commitment that they will never be forgotten. I consider all those who have ever been in uniform to my brothers and sisters. We all came to these hollowed chambers through distinguished routes, I got to Washington because of those who served in the military and I work here, day in and day out, for them!

As we depart Washington, I ask that we reiterate our promise to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, DoD civilians, and their families—that they will not be slighted, now or ever—that we honor their service—that we honor the service of those still missing, because their plight is our plight.

We cannot remember our Veterans properly without remembering the sacrifices of war—these are the issues that hit home. We remember those service members who have sacrificed for this nation, and we pay special tribute to their families.

I ask through my resolution that we additionally pay special tribute this Veteran's Day to those service members—active, guard, reserve, and civilians—who participated in the recently successful military operations—combat and humanitarian—in Kosovo and the entire Balkans area of operations.

Over 39,000 members of the Armed Services deployed to the Balkans area

during the peak of Kosovo operations, 700 U.S. aircraft were deployed, 37,000 overall missions were flown with 25,000 of these by U.S. aircraft, and 5,000 missions were weapons strike missions. We all know that this is only a partial picture of what was occurring on the ground, on the high seas, and in the air. These facts fit any definition of warfare.

We can not forget these individuals and their families any more than we can forget those of all of our past wars. If freedom is the fruit of victory, Veteran's Day reminds us too of the cost of war—casualties, POWs, and MIAs. They live in our hearts while we live in the world they made safe for us. I call for us all this Veteran's Day to remember specially our Kosovo and Balkans service members as we remember all past veterans.

Every day I wake up, I thank God I am here. I am inspired to continue living by the memory of our veteran's. The vigilance of those that went to Kosovo, like those who still serve in the Balkans, those in the desert, those in ships, and those in Korea and in the far corners of the earth, is now my vigilance, their fight is now my fight. I ask my colleagues to remember and to ensure that their sacrifices are not made in vain.

Secretary Cohen recently stated at the POW/MIA recognition ceremony at Arlington Cemetery—an awesome, somber experience—that "we are the heirs of freedom, paid for with the blood of patriots." I ask my colleagues to remember our Kosovo and Balkans patriots in their ceremonies this Veteran's Day. How fortunate we are, how much we owe.

I will be remembering veterans from Georgia in the Kosovo conflict, especially veterans from Warner Robbins Air Force Base, Fort Stewart near Savannah, the naval air station in Atlanta and Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 224) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 224

Whereas approximately 39,000 members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the United States were deployed at the peak of the 1999 conflict in Kosovo;

Whereas approximately 700 United States aircraft were deployed and committed to combat missions during that conflict;

Whereas approximately 37,000 combat sorties were flown by aircraft of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) during that conflict;

Whereas approximately 25,000 combat sorties were flown by United States aircraft during that conflict;